

## New leader takes control over 737th EOD

By Julia LeDoux

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It was an emotional moment Friday as Capt. Edward Dennis relinquished command of the 737th Explosive Ordnance Detachment to Capt. Brett Carey.



Photo by Julia LeDoux

*Capt. Ed Dennis, left, transferred command of the 737th EOD to Capt. Brett Carey, right, during a change of command ceremony Thursday on Fort Belvoir. Lt. col. James Shivers, center, was the keynote speaker for the event.*

"This is probably the best thing that's happened to me," said Carey. "I've grown up in EOD and this is what I love."

The 737th is a subordinate company to the 63rd Ordnance Battalion in Fort Dix, New Jersey, and a member of the 52nd Ordnance Group in Fort Gillem, Georgia. The unit's mission is to protect American forces and the nation by neutralizing hazards from conventional, chemical, biological and nuclear munitions and improvised explosive devices.

Carey enlisted as an infantryman in April 1989 and became an EOD specialist in 1993. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps in 2001 after completing Officers Candidate School. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Regents College of New York in 2000.

Among those on hand to watch Carey take command of the 737th was the Command Sgt. Maj. of the 52nd EOD, James Clifford, and battalion commander of the 63rd Ordnance Battalion Explosive Ordnance Disposal Lt. Col. James J. Shivers.

"Sgt. Maj. Clifford was my first sergeant when I was a specialist at Andrews in 1993," Carey said.

As a non-commissioned officer, Carey served at Fort Drum, Kentucky, Camp Red Cloud in Korea, and with the 55th EOD at Fort Belvoir. His commissioned assignments include the 529th Ordnance Company (ammunition) as a platoon leader. He recently completed a tour as the EOD operations officer of Technical Escort Disablement Team 4 with the Iraq Survey Group in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2.

Dennis enlisted as a military policeman in 1989 and was commissioned as a second

lieutenant in 1996 after completing Officers Candidate School. In December of 2001, he received a bachelor of arts degree in Employment Relations from the State University of New York at Potsdam.

As an NCO, Dennis served in Germany and California. His commissioned assignments include the 710th Ordnance Battalion and the 10th Mountain Division. He became commander of the 737th in 2003 and led the unit on a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"There's a lot to remember," he said of his time with the unit.

The 737th was constituted on March 9, 1944, as the 157th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Unit and was activated 11 days later at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. The unit participated in the World War II campaigns of Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe and was de-activated on Nov. 29, 1945.

The unit was re-designated as the 57th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squad on Jan. 22, 1951, and was activated on Jan. 14, 1952 at Raritan Arsenal in New Jersey.

Re-organized and re-designated at the 57th Ordnance Detachment on June 25, 1954, over the years the unit moved to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Fort Meade, Maryland, and Fort Myer, Virginia. It relocated to Fort Belvoir on June 25, 1960.

The 57th EOD was deployed to Somalia from July to December of 1993 and was re-designated as the 737th on Sept. 15, 1997. The 737th was deployed to Kosovo from May to November of 2002 and to Operation Iraqi Freedom from April to October of 2004.

"[I] knew no matter what the mission was I could just pass the word to Capt. Dennis and the Soldiers and NCOs of the 737th would accomplish the mission quickly, safely and in record time," Shivers said.

During their time in Iraq, the 737th was in the forefront of the fight to render improvised explosive devices useless, he continued.

"Anytime of the day or night, the personnel from the 737th were there responding to the IED's and fighting their way through enemy fire," noted Shivers. "Capt. Dennis was there with his Soldiers leading from the front."

Shivers said it is easy to point out what Dennis and his Soldiers did while in Iraq. What is not known are the number of U.S. and Coalition forces they prevented from being injured or killed.

"Thanks to their efforts, I know that there are Soldiers walking around today who would not be. On behalf of those unknowns, I again say thank you and a job well done. You have much to be proud of," he added.

Dennis has been assigned to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, where he will serve as an ordnance officer basic course instructor and small group leader.

"Ed will be responsible for molding the future leaders of the Ordnance Corps and I know they will be in good hands," Shivers commented.

"While it does take him away from Muddy Boot Army for a while, it is worth the wait for him to return."

He also welcomed Carey to his new post.

"I know he will do an excellent job as a company commander and one which he has eagerly been looking forward to. It is a pleasure to have him and I know he looks forward to the challenges ahead of him," he said.